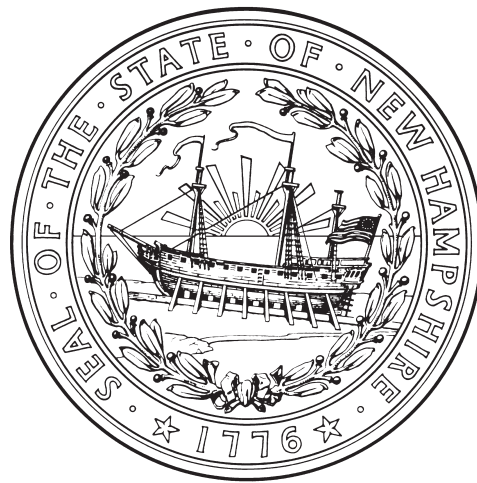


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Legislative Proceedings

SENATE JOURNAL

**ADJOURNMENT – JUNE 29, 2023 SESSION
COMMENCEMENT – OCTOBER 26, 2023 SESSION**

SENATE JOURNAL 20 *(continued)*

June 29, 2023

Out of Recess. Call the Senate to Order.

Without objection, all Personal Privileges and Unanimous Consent shall be entered into the permanent *Journal of the Senate*. (Rule 2-16 and Rule 2-17). Adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: So, this is this time of year, every time in the spring when we all come together. This year has been a particularly great year and it's our opportunity as Senators to thank a multitude, and I mean a multitude of people who have made 2023 and all of our work possible.

So, I can't say enough about our clerk, Tammy Wright, all of the staff. All of her great staff Ann, Jack, Gardner, Herb, Molly, Roger, Mike, and Pip. Great job, everybody. Great job.

And then I want to thank the third floor staff. Marie, where are you? You've done an awesome job moving in. Sheena, Grant, Maya, Daley, Kate, and I'm going to thank the Minority Office staff, too, and I'm sure that Senator Soucy will, but all of you, great job. Thank you very much.

Patrick, where are you? Patrick Murphy, our Senate researcher. Thank you very much.

I'm going to let all of you thank your own legislative aides. I just gave Marie a shoutout. But when we get to that, let me finish with everybody else first.

And we got to start because we had such a great budget, it wouldn't have happened without the LBA Mike Kane and everybody. Normally when they're in their offices plugging away at trying to figure out what we're trying to do, what we want to accomplish, you never see them except in the Finance room. Now that we're done and we didn't have a Committee of Conference, I love to see you guys on the street. Mike Kane's exercise group!

We would not have been able to do what we do without all of the staff at OLS. You guys do an unbelievable job. Dave, thank you. And thanks to all of your staff for the hard work.

We've had a lot of new folks come and work for the Legislature in the past year. And so I'm looking for Jenn Becker. Where are you? There you are. Jenn and her staff, Stephanie, Amanda, and Lindsay, do a great job of making sure that everybody is doing what they're supposed to be doing, interviewing people, keeping the trains running. Jenn, thank you very much.

We wouldn't be able to function if all of the Senators and everybody else with their laptops didn't have Wi-Fi and web services here. So, for our IT and Media Services Scott Kelley and his team Ray, Laurie, Sue, Ryan, Jonathan, Cameron, and Riley. Thank you guys, very much. I know there have been some trying times this year but thank you for keeping us all online.

I've had the opportunity to talk to a number of school groups this year. For whatever reason, I was able to do it more this year than ever. And so I really have gotten to appreciate the work of Virginia and Margaret at Visitor Center. You guys do a great job making this building welcome to the public. So thank you very much.

And the building would not function without a great operations staff, Doug Dolcino and his team Darin, Angelo, Bob, Pip, John, Mike, and Ron. Thank you for all the hard work you do keeping this building functional. It's not always the easiest job.

And increasingly, in this age, where protective services are so important. Joe and George and their team, thank you for keeping all of us safe. You guys are the best. Thank you.

And our nurse, Natalie [Michele] Flanagan. Where are you? There you are. We haven't had too many bad events here but thank you so much.

And the one person that sort of keeps this all going, somebody that I've known for how many years is it, boss? A long time. Our Chief of Staff, Debra Vanderbeek. Can't say enough about what she does.

Thank you folks, very much. It was a great session. And stick around for a few minutes. I'll have a few remarks at the end that you might want to hear, but I'm going to give each Senator a chance to give a shout out to their staff people. So, who would like to go first?

(The Chair recognized Senator Carson.)

SENATOR CARSON: Thank you, Mister President. There are a number of people that I would like to thank. Being a Majority Leader was kind of an adjustment for me. And quite frankly, I couldn't have done the job without the help of my aide, Matthew. He is phenomenal. He understands me, he knows how I work. He keeps track of me, he keeps me focused and I couldn't have done my job without Matthew. And I really want to thank Matthew for working with me, not only as my aide, but as the Committee Secretary for Judiciary. He did a phenomenal job of keeping track of Judiciary as well. And I can't thank him enough for all his work. So please accept my thanks, Matthew.

Mister President, I would also like to thank Daley. Daley became our new Majority Caucus Director. And he's done a fabulous job, always available. Works, he's a dream to work with, just like Matthew. So, I just want to say thank you for all your hard work.

There are a couple of other folks that I'd like to thank. I'd like to thank Rich Lambert. He does a really good job keeping us on the straight and narrow. And unfortunately, a lot of times people forget about the work that he does. So I would like to thank him.

I'd also like to thank our committee attorney, Mister Lehmann invaluable resource, and he's just, again, another person that is a dream to work with. So, I'd like to thank you for all your help with Senate Judiciary.

The last, but not the least person that I'd like to thank is Herb. Mister President, he's usually the first person we see when we come through the door to come here into the Chambers. He always has a smile on his face. He's always happy. And it sets the tone for the day, and I want to thank him for that. Thank you, Mister President.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Thank you, Senator Carson. I'd also like to thank Terry Pfaff. Terry and I came into the House across the wall in the same year in 1990. We've grown white hair together. And, Terry, you're going to get that parking garage. You are going to get it.

(The Chair recognized Senator Avard.)

SENATOR AVARD: Thank you, Mister President. And first, I want to thank Marie for putting the training wheels on me so that I could know when to come and go. But then she trained Tricia, who does an amazing job, and I have to really look for her approval on just about everything, whether my tie is straight, whether my music is good, and if I actually understand what I'm doing for the day. And I really am very grateful for Tricia. She's really stepped up into some really important shoes, and you've more than done fulfill them. And I know both of us are very, very grateful for you. And you seem to be a magnet, too, because people like to come into the office and, hey, where's Tricia? Because you're a light, and we recognize that. So thank you. Thank you for everything.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gendreau.)

SENATOR GENDREAU: Thank you, Mister President. And Kathy Cummings is the assistant for Senator Lang and I, and she's watching us. She was not able to make it up into this room. But just a huge thank you to Kathy and people, Senator Carson had mentioned the training wheels, the guardrails, and that's exactly what Kathy did for us. And being a freshman Senator, not even knowing what in the world I was doing, she rescued me so much. And Tim and I were talking earlier about that, about helping us with our schedule. So a huge shout out to her, for sure. But also, looking around this room, and I think every single person in this room contributed to our success, every single person in some way. So when we talk about a team effort, it truly is. It's not just one person or one Senator or one group. It is a team. And I'm so grateful for that. So, thank you, Mister President. And thank you all. Thank you all.

(The Chair recognized Senator Innis.)

SENATOR INNIS: Thank you, Mister President. I walked into my office the first day, and Ava was there, and Ava is something special. And I want to thank you, Ava, for the three weeks we spent together. I mean, I walk in, it's like a Murphy Brown episode. I'm out the door as your assistant. Right? But it was terrific. Her energy is infectious. I really enjoyed our time together. So you can imagine the shift as we go to Aaron Jones, and I walk in, and he's there. Good morning, Senator. Right. But we've built a great working relationship together. I really appreciate the steadiness you bring to the job, how you keep me on track, how you work with my eccentricities and idiosyncrasies, and I'm really grateful to have you as my aide and really, really appreciate all that you've done. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: Thank you, Mister President. First, I want to thank you for taking the reins from Senator Morse all this time. You've done a fabulous job. I want to thank Marie. We've been together since 2015, when I first came in. Training wheels then the two wheeler. Now she's got me driving, and I appreciate everything. She's who I vent to. She's my confidante. And we have a great working relationship, and I hope it continues. I also want to thank Cam. He's trained me in HHS as my first legislative aide for HHS. You kept me on the straight and narrow as well, and you've guided me where I need to go, and I really appreciate it. You do a fabulous job. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Abbas.)

SENATOR ABBAS: Thank you, Mister President. And I share with my good friend from 17, we share an assistant, Peter O'Neill, but he's not here today. He's traveling to Michigan. So hopefully he's safe travels. But he had to handle two freshman Senators who probably needed training wheels but refused to use them. So he had his hands full. And we both have other professional obligations outside of the State House, so we're all over the place. But he did a really good job of really keeping us in line, keeping us organized and my iPad would malfunction. He was always there to help us out and really, we could not have done it without him and really, everyone in this room, I really appreciate everything you guys did to keep the wheels turning. So thank you again.

(The Chair recognized Senator Soucy.)

SENATOR SOUCY: Thank you, Mister President. We were going to do this in two parts, so I'd like Senator Rosenwald to go next. But I really, really want to thank Jenny and Ava. I know many of you know how great they are because you've worked with them over the years in many capacities. We are so thrilled to have them down in room 120. As has already been said, certainly their experience, their professionalism, their knowledge has been invaluable to us, and they are so much fun. In the toughest times when we've had issues to grapple with, they have just done above and beyond what is expected to try to make us look good. They have great advice and wisdom that they love to share. And I think not just me, but our entire caucus has truly benefited from all the great work that they've done for us, and we truly, truly appreciate them. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Rosenwald.)

SENATOR ROSENWALD: Thank you. I would like to thank Jenn Gallagher. Jenny G is the sun coming up in the morning. She does it all. She has Senator Soucy and me always going in the right place with the right materials at the right time. She is welcoming to other Senators and the public downstairs, and she is an absolute rock star at constituent work. She shines at it, and I know our constituents really, really appreciate it. So, thank you, Jenn. And I'd also like to add my personal thanks to the LBA, who I think sometimes I talk to you more than I talk to my own family. No matter what time of day I email you, I hear back. And you're always smiling. You're always helpful, you're never wrinkled, and you always help us get to the place we need to get. So thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator D'Allesandro.)

SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Mister President. First, thanks to you for your great leadership this year. It's not easy being at the top. Let me make that perfectly clear, it's not easy being at the top. As I look around the room, I probably have been here longer than almost any of you. And let me just say this, sweet Sonja has been with me for two decades. I don't think anybody has had a secretary or a confidant or a friend longer than sweet Sonja and I have been together, so I can't thank her enough for putting up with me for all of these years.

And as I look around the room, the LBA, you guys and women the new addition, by the way, thank you, are the best since sliced bread. I'm on the phone with you all the time here Huffman. I'm calling you all the time, and you're always getting back to me lickety split. Michael Kane, Chris, and Kevin, all of you. And it's just great working with you. And I must say that you do more work than any group I've ever seen. I talked to the chairman of a committee in Massachusetts. They've got 25 or 30 people just working for that committee. We have, what, seven people working for the House, working for the Senate so the LBA is superb. The greatest, as I say, the best. And that phone always gets answered by the gorgeous woman who handles it. And I thank her too.

I couldn't live without the nurse. She's been spectacular. That's all I could say. Spectacular to me in keeping me going. And thank you very much for that.

To the staff, Annie takes care of me and has since day one. Thank you, Annie. Thank for all you do. And to the rest of you guys, thanks for all of your service. Not only to me, but to the rest of the troops.

Richie, you're the best. That's all I can say. I think Senator Carson is absolutely correct. You are the best. And people in that office are certainly great. Jeff, the man with 1,000 years of experience writing legislation. Thank you very much. Keep it going.

And to Tricia at the State House, she delivers all the time. Thank you, Tricia at the State House. And I must give everyone just a great big thank you to my colleagues. A big thank you. Serving the public is not easy. It's a task that we all approach in a different manner. But it's really what we're here for. And the kind of help that we get from our colleagues and from those who support us is extraordinary. And I thank everybody for that.

And Herby is great, welcoming people. He's a great American. The Pfaffer and the garage, it had to come, Pfaffer, just had to come. It was only a matter of time. Remember, I was here when we built Storrs Street. Okay, I remember parking at Storrs Street in 1973 when it first went up. Long, long time ago.

But I just can't thank everybody enough. Truly, it's great to work with people, colleagues and those who have left us to just some outstanding memories. So thank all of you. I thank all of you and appreciate all you do. And we got to keep it going. That's all. Thank you, Mister President.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Thank you, Senator D'Allesandro. And thank you for always being inspiring and coming back so well from your injury. I think that inspired all of us.

(The Chair recognized Senator Watters.)

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Mister President. let's give it up for the Lionel Messi of 101-A. Goal Cameron. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Lang.)

SENATOR LANG: No, absolutely not. But what I can say is, like Carrie said, our aides were so invaluable, anybody knows, they watch me. I walk around, my phone in my hand, and if it doesn't go on my calendar, I'm going to forget about it. It's that simple. And Kathy did a great job at making sure I was where I was supposed to be when I was supposed to be there and had the right materials. Even when I forgot the materials, they were at my desk when I got there. So, it was phenomenal.

But to Sonja, she kept me on, as a first time Senator and a chair of Ways and Means. I say, oh, I want to do this. And she goes, well. And it was great. She kept me on task, kept me where we need to go, make sure I didn't screw up the timelines, what we needed. And so thank you very much for that. I appreciate that.

My first term in the House, Speaker Jasper put me on JLCAR, and everyone said, what did you do to piss him off? And I walked into the committee, and there was literally back before we had these gadgets, we had a stack of paper I'm not kidding was at least a foot high. And I'm like, who has time to read all this? And the answer is Mike Morrell and all of his staff, right? The amount of detail, the incredible amount of work they do as far as JLCAR staff, is phenomenal. As vice chair of JLCAR this year, I got to see what goes behind the curtain, not just showing up for the committee, but coming in and seeing what they do. And it is phenomenal. The amount of detail that they have to parse through to say, oh, this reference to this federal statute in some register somewhere is off by a digit. And he's able to find it, fix it, and get it right, even though the agency got it wrong. So to your staff, I really, really do appreciate all the detail and work that you guys do. So thank you very much.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gray.)

SENATOR GRAY: Thank you, Mister President. Budget. Okay? When I joined the Senate over six years ago now, I went in and I says, well, for committees, I says, I want Election Law and anything else but Finance. And the only reason I was able to do Finance is because of my committee assistant, Deb, and the people from LBA, okay? One of the best compliments that I received in this whole process is that the departments knew when to be there, and there was always a purpose for them to be there. They weren't sitting around in those meetings waiting for something that never happened. And that is the hard work between the LBA and Deb to make sure that we were on point, that we knew what we were going to do that day, that we were having the committee meetings. And without the staff of the LBA, that never would have happened. And that's part of the reason why we finished on time, Jeb. Whether you knew it or not, because of the hard work and the scheduling that went into it, I can't help but thank you guys enough. And even though Deb is going to yell at me when I get downstairs for mentioning her name more than once, but we'll take that.

Then the other committee that I have, Trish, certainly Election Law. I think that Election Law. If you look at the number of bills that we went through and the number of bills that came out on a very bipartisan basis, that it's just amazing, the things that we do in Election Law and Municipal Affairs. And thank you for that. I want everyone on Municipal Affairs, Election Law and Municipal Affairs to tell you that our luncheon that wasn't well attended went very well, and that it did give me the opportunity to thank Trish and to thank Deb.

When I look around the room, there's very few people that are here that I haven't interacted with time and time again in this last two years. Thank you to all. And even though I'm only an alternate on JLCAR, I still appreciate all the hard work that they do so that I can go in on a ten-minute notice and say and know what's going on. So thank you all very much.

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Thank you, Mister President. Well, as my roommate from District 22 said, it's been quite a year, quite a freshman year. We've had a great time. Peter has been an amazing person. The friendship that we've developed between us, he's he is in Michigan. He's flying out to plan his wedding. He's he's going to get married. And that's been important. So he's had a few questions for me, too, and I've had a whole lot for him about keeping us on track. But, no, it's been a great experience. He's been amazing, keeping the office in line, trying to keep all my paperwork in order for the committees. Chairing ED&A was a heavy lift. We had a lot of work in there this year with OPLC. Certainly my vice chair was instrumental in helping me get through that as well. Senator Carson, I appreciate that, but Phillip was amazing. Everything we did, everything we needed, things I didn't know I needed, things I didn't know I was supposed to do. We got them all done because it is greatly impart to you, Phillip and I thank you for that. You were amazing.

Nik on Energy. I had to step up and take over for Senator Avard when he had some issues. You and Tricia were both right there, and we got it done. We got the planning done; the scheduling done. Again, I just thank you, all of you. But I will tell you the biggest story I want to tell you is if you really want to learn what's going on at the State House, you need to have the office with the water cooler in it, because there are people in and out of the office all the time. And it's just interesting to, the things you learn, the things you hear, the interactions that we have, as it's been stated. Thank all of you. I see many of you around in official capacity. Some of you I run into out in the public, and I always appreciate you recognizing me and knowing who we are. And it's just an amazing experience to be here. And to all my colleagues, thank you. It's been an incredible freshman year. It really has. We've done a wonderful job. Deb Martone in Finance. She'll hate me too, Jim she can. She kept me in line. It was an absolute pleasure sitting next to her. The conversations we had as we went through the hearings were well, they were fine. I'll say that. And Finance can be an arduous task, but she made it very pleasurable, and I appreciate that. So thank you all, and I hope you all have a great summer.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gannon.)

SENATOR GANNON: Thank you, Mister President. I want to thank you first. We had the calmest caucus I've ever been in. The table is always just focused and organized and everyone's having a good time. So that's important.

Aaron in Commerce. I told him on day one, you've done it before, you schedule, and he'd always have his suggestions. How do you like it? Sounds good to me. So thank you.

I have to Denise, you're like staff to me, also. You took over Commerce when I disappeared for four weeks and you did a great job. So. Thank you.

Sharon in Judiciary, it really can be the most demanding committee. Wasn't so bad this year because you always are on top of everything. So thank you very much for running that committee so well.

Stan, security. I don't know if you're up here, Stan. You're probably listening somewhere. You're always a wonderful, fresh, fun face to talk to every morning. Herb, I've enjoyed talking about your son. Where is he going to play football? In Arizona? Somewhere. New Mexico? I'm not good on the map. It's pretty close.

Rick Lehmann sage advice on legal matters kept me out of making a few mistakes. Thank you. Our nurse who has to push me up to get me out of this building. Thank you. I probably destroyed your back. Let's see. Who haven't we mentioned.

Oh, Tricia. I forgot you. How could I forget you? So Jeb put us together. I don't know if it was a Beauty and the Beast thing, but for me, I'm into Disney references. For me, it was a glass slipper. You just fit so well. It's been a great three years. Everyone else thinks they have a piece of Trish. You're all mine. I don't know what they're talking about. Constituent services. I was horrible at that six years ago. Seven years

ago. Terrible. You answer every call. You take care of everyone. You know what my responses would be. Thank you. Interior decorating. You cut the deers in the right spot. You did really well there. And I come to her many mornings and I'm like, I had these thoughts at two or three in the morning and they look like this. And I'll be like, can you make this sort of coherent for about 10:00 in 15 minutes? So I thank you for putting everything together. It's a joy coming to see you every day. Thank you. Thank you, Mister President.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: And Senator Gannon, like Senator D'Allesandro, and like Senator Avard, the three of you are absolutely inspirational to all of us for your persistence, your perseverance, your hard work to get back here, to do your job while you were out of commission. I can't say enough about how the rest of us had so much respect for all three of you. So thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Altschiller.)

SENATOR ALTSCHILLER: Thank you, Mister President. After organization day, Senator Fenton and I got our office assignments, and when we got downstairs to LOB 5, we saw potential. Isn't that right, Senator Fenton? It was all potential. We were greeted by Jenny Horgan, all by her little lonesome self, who, in a matter of a few short weeks, would move up to State House 120. So when Jenny stepped away, Aaron stepped in. Thank you. And he fielded so many questions and so many requests. And if that small bag of Lindt chocolate was clearly not enough to thank you for how wonderful you were for those couple of weeks. And I came back another day, and Aaron was whisked away, and Jenny is gone. And then we soon had Kevin Condict and Nik Liamos as our aides. And I would have to say, it's kind of a group effort down in the Boujee Bunker. If you've not been down to the Boujee Bunker, I suggest you come take a trip. So now the Boujee Bunker is full and I had the pleasure of knowing the two of them in previous professional capacities. So I was really, really thrilled to see their faces in the Boujee basement bunker.

Kevin is really, really smart, very organized, and he tackles research projects like he did when he played sports in high school. It is done and I know that he drags Nik into some of them sometimes and before you know it, I got a stack of receipts, as we like to say, down in the Boujee Bunker. I am grateful that he's so open to learning the ropes right alongside me and that he is honest and frank when the situation calls for it. Plus, he has a terrific sense of humor, thank goodness, as well as Nik. Just ask Senator Fenton. Maybe Senator Fenton has enjoyed some of our humor down the Boujee Bunker. Thank you, Kevin. Thank you, Nick. Thank you very much.

And I want to thank you and for the summer, I guess we'll be pausing Dunks Wednesdays. Sorry, I'm not going to be coming in every Wednesday, but I think I've left you guys enough snacks at least to get through the next month or so. We'll have to send an Amazon order.

Thank you to Jenny and Ava for responding to text messages. Even when I start the text message with, this is not a now problem, they always respond anyways. Thank you for your briefings, for your speech edits, and for your committee support. You're absolutely the best. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Fenton.)

SENATOR FENTON: Thank you, Mister President. I want to echo what my colleague said. I guess you all know now know the nickname of our office. It's the Boujee Bunker. Cat's out of the bag on that one. And part of the job requirement is to survive with very little sunlight in the basement. So, I think Nik and Kevin do an excellent job at that. And, you know, Deb and I are both freshman Senators and Nick and Kev are both, I guess, freshman aides. And that made us a little nervous going into this. But we have learned together, we've grown together, and we've really just kicked butt together. And it's an awesome experience. And speaking of kicking butt, Nik is a black belt. So, if you ever mess with me, you're going to have to go through my aide as well.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: I used to love that office back in the day. It's a great office.

(The Chair recognized Senator Avard.)

SENATOR AVARD: Yeah. Mister President, I apologize for forgetting Nik because you did a great job. And I know energy is not exactly the most fun topic, but you really stepped up and really did a great job, and you helped us work on so many bipartisan issues. And no complaints. I just asked you, and you did it. And we have a rising star here. He's really good. And you really surprised me. You did well.

And in addition to that, I want to thank Margaret. You're amazing. You do the tours. The kids, they come here, and these are walking encyclopedias. If I forget what the picture is all about, you're there. And we really appreciate you and Virginia and all the volunteers in the Visitor Center. It's the first place people go, and they look around, and you are right there, and you've done a great job. So just hats off to you. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Whitley.)

SENATOR WHITLEY: Thank you, Mister President. I'm not sure if she's here, but I want to thank my girl, Jess. Jess has been with me for day one, and she has turned into not only someone I really trust to actually manage my schedule. I have never, ever relinquished my schedule. And so she has done that for me. But she's also become a really good friend, part time therapist. There's no way I could navigate everything that happens in the State House without her. So I'm deeply grateful for everything that she does.

I also wanted to give another shout out to Matthew for walking into Judiciary. It's a tough, busy, interesting committee, and you just breezed right in and did a fabulous job. And, of course, to my guy Cam, who just can level you with a look. Right? He can level you with a look, but he's also so wildly competent, and he keeps that committee moving. So, thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Ward.)

SENATOR WARD: Thank you, Mister President. Thank you for taking the helm. I've been here for a couple of years now, and as an aide, I started out with Marie. It was great. And then she moved up, and I got Ava. After a couple of weeks, she moved up, and I said, okay, what's happening now? And then I was presented with Aaron Jones. I have to say something about Aaron that I really appreciate. When I go in to do something, I like to have all the materials there, and I look at it, and I don't have to do it at home, which I still do, because when I come into the office, Aaron has everything all there. He somehow anticipates what I need, and it's there. And I really appreciate that. Thank you very much, Aaron.

Another part that concerned me with the switches was that on the Education Committee, Ava had done such a wonderful job. And then when she moved up, my concern was, okay, who is going to do the report? Are they going to be able to do it? Do they know how to do it? And I was given Pete, and I said, how do you learn so fast what to do? How do you type so fast? How do you get all the essence down? And he said, well, we have help and practice a couple of times, and it's done. And he has done a marvelous job. And I appreciate that, Pete. And I appreciate, Aaron, for what you have done and Ava before. So, and I have been in touch, seen a lot of you over the years, and I have to say that I appreciate every single thing that you do and your part in making this place run smoothly. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka.)

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: And on the inspiration category you also qualify and that's an awesome thing, yes.

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: This little thing? Thank you, Mister President. Well, I have to start by thanking Cam, and I don't have a big ballad for you, but Cam and I have a very special relationship where I like to schedule too many things and Cam likes to be really stressed out about it. And so every single day he's like, are you going to be able to make it to this thing, and then this thing? So, I really appreciate you keeping me in line, reminding me when my daughter's school is closed and just generally taking care of it. Cam also does a great job on constituent work. I remember from being a city councilor that it's just a lot to sort of make sure you're helping people with these things they need every day. And so it's been invaluable now to have staff that really enjoys the work, gets in touch with the right people, make sure I've followed up and I'm connecting with those people. And so that's been really helpful. And he also just takes care of things. When I send him a text, it's like, can you send this thing to this person and make sure you copy that person and maybe do it tomorrow? And it always gets done perfectly, despite my terrible direction. So I appreciate that. On the interior decorating front, we have work to do, but we're getting there.

Jenny and Ava, I just want to thank, because as a busy mom of two, soon to be three, there's a lot of stuff that I just don't have time to sort of forecast or think about or remember. And I feel like they're always there. They've got us covered, making sure we're communicating, and we just sort of know what's coming for the day and making sure that we're ready. So, I appreciate that.

I want to thank OLS, because HB 655, I think, came over to us as a thirty-five page bill, and then I wrote a twenty-eight page amendment to it. So that was a lot of work, and I really appreciate all the hard work that went into sort of, like, making sure that the House and Senate versions of that were balanced and had everything in it.

And then I also just want to thank Ginny and Margaret, because I constantly get texts from constituents in my district that are like, oh, my gosh, my fourth grader went to the State House today. They had a great, great time. Sometimes I get to see them, and sometimes I don't, but I know that they're getting their first experience here, and it's really kind of helping inform their mind, and hopefully they'll be back someday. So thank you for that. Thanks, guys.

(The Chair recognized Senator Ricciardi.)

SENATOR RICCIARDI: Thank you, Mister President. It truly does take a village to run the State House, and I'm just truly grateful for each and every one of you in this room. I don't think we could do it without you. I'm very grateful for our leadership, and I am truly grateful for every colleague in here. I have enjoyed working with all of you, and I consider you all friends.

I want to thank Marie because she transitioned me to Phillip, and I want to thank Aaron, who helped me when I had to manage Commerce. And you do a fantastic job. Before I get back to Phillip, I want to give a shout out to Donna, who always comes and cleans the office with the biggest smile on her face, and I look forward to seeing her every afternoon.

Phillip has been amazing. He gets me. He knows what I need. Before I even have to ask him. I will sometimes give him a list or ask him, and he'll go, it's already done. It's on your desk. I don't know what I would have done without him. We kind of grew into each other, and we have it all down perfect. And I couldn't ask for a better, I like to say a working partner. I really am so grateful to him. And with that being said, I don't know who's going to fill his shoes because I'm very happy for him. He has a new opportunity, but I am losing him. But I am very, very happy and very grateful, and I would really like to personally thank all of you, but I would keep you here all day. But I have to talk about the Visitor Center, because not only do they help me with the tours with all the fourth graders, but I love going in there to decompress and relax. I just love that place. So thank you all, and I hope you have a great summer.

(The Chair recognized Senator Chandley.)

SENATOR CHANDLEY: Thank you, Mister President. We're at the point probably, where we think everything that could possibly be said has been said, but it hasn't, because I don't think we can ever overstate our gratitude. And there isn't a group here that or perhaps even a person that I haven't asked for help at somewhere along the way, whether it's IT, Legislative Services, Legislative Accounting, Housekeeping, the Clerk's Office, our caucus, the Majority Office, the Visitors' Center, the folks from JLCAR, the nurse's office. I'm afraid, I don't want to forget anyone because I have come to you for help. And you have helped me be a good representative for my community, to serve my community. And I thank you for your service to the state. And it's incredibly powerful. And maybe if we haven't interacted a lot individually, just the fact that each morning when you greet us and greet us by saying good morning, it makes a huge difference. You are the light in my day, every day.

I do have to say thank you to my chair people, Senator Carson, Senator Gannon, thank you to all my colleagues. Thank you to committee aides Aaron and Matthew. Thank you for all your work. And finally, but not the least of which, I do need to thank Jessica Bourque because she does what so many of our aides do. She adapts to meet the needs of the individual Senators she's serving, and she is serving three of us, which is probably no small task when she has three people's needs to meet. We are in that committee room over in the LOB and she does a fabulous job helping each of us keep our schedules, set up meetings with the folks that we need to meet with and know where we need to be. So, again, thank you, Mister President, for all you've done.

(The Chair recognized Senator Murphy.)

SENATOR MURPHY: Thank you, Mister President. Mister President, I could not believe my luck as a freshman Senator when I walked in and found that I had been assigned to the best office in the entire complex. Room 101 of the LOB, If you offered to switch with me, I would say no. I love that office. Please don't move me.

When I walked into the first day, I met my new assistant. His name was Aaron Jones. If it wasn't clear, Aaron Jones gets moved around like a chess piece. So two weeks later, he was stolen away to work for the third floor. You're welcome. And I was assigned Mister Pete Mulvey. And I thought, new Senator, new assistant, we'll see. You would never know Pete was new. Pete knocked it out of the park every single day. I never missed an appointment. I never wanted for more than a couple of hours for research. I never had constituent email me and say he didn't get response. Pete was essential to me being successful at my job this year. So, Pete, thank you very much. I appreciate it.

And Mister President, in conclusion, I just want to echo my gratitude for the professionalism and the competence and the day-to-day pleasantness that I encountered at every single office in this building. Thank you all very much for everything.

(The Chair recognized Senator Prentiss.)

SENATOR PRENTISS: Senator Bradley, Mister President. I feel like am I playing, was it the cleanup batter? Almost. Okay. I think you actually ultimately have the final word. There's not much more that I could say that hasn't already been said. Thank you very much. I wanted to express, of course, my sincere thanks and gratitude for the day to day support that I receive not just during session, but outside of session months from our wonderful aide Jess Bourque and Senator Chandley and Senator Whitley are supported by her as well, and I echo their gratitude, appreciation, and compliments.

I did want to provide a special shout out or bring a special shout out to, I call him commander, Terry Pfaff and our new nurse, Nurse Flanagan. This year, you all know that I'm a paramedic. I'm very interested in the safety of this building, the health care, and taking care of each other. And I wanted to make sure that as many people as possible knew how to do CPR, knew how to use the AEDs that we have, and knew how to put tourniquets on because a bill has been passed that's going to put tourniquets in state buildings. So I reached out to the commander and our State House nurse, and we were able to put on an event in the state house cafeteria to help get you all trained up as well as other legislators. I couldn't have gotten that done without you, and I appreciate it, and I'll be calling on you more. And lastly, from the first floor to the third floor to the Clerk's Office, to OLS, to LBA, thank you. Your work has been sincerely, sincerely appreciated. You've heard it. That's it. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Innis.)

SENATOR INNIS: Mister President. I was remiss. As you know, the Capital Budget Committee is always front and center in everyone's mind. And we did it in record time and we did it in record time because of Kevin. Where'd he go? He left. Well, anyhow, thanks to Kevin for that. We'll do it in record time again next time, too. Thank you, Mister President.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Okay, I would like to say a few words, but a couple of announcements first, everybody should have this list of Re-referred bills. They're approximately 50. So as I think a lot of us know, the first floor of the State House is going have a huge amount of activity. So it would appear, from what I've been told, that I wouldn't be scheduling too many Re-referred bill meetings in July or August, maybe even into September. Wait until after that. The one exception, I suspect the retirement commission, the Group II commission. We'll figure that out. But just if you could keep that in mind.

And secondly, I know everybody wants to travel a little bit, enjoy the summer, hopefully really have a good time, get far away, if you could, through your aides, let us know so that we have a pretty good idea. I haven't had a chance to talk to the speaker yet about Veto Day. My guess is it will be in early October. But it would be helpful to have everybody's travel schedule so I try to schedule around that, okay? Those are the announcements.

Now, it's obviously been a brand new experience for me to be up here. I didn't really know what to expect, even though had worked with Senator Morse for years. And I got to give Shannon a shout out because we miss you on the third floor, but I'm glad you're on the first floor. I didn't really know what to expect and for all of us to come together and do the work that we did, I think is exceptional. As somebody who's been in this building for a long time and lived up close and personal the dysfunction in our nation's capital, it was pretty inspiring to see the work that the twenty-four of us did and all of the help that all of you that are here and hearing the heartfelt thanks of so many Senators. It was truly inspiring. But I just want to go around the room because it's really important to know what everybody did. It's just exceptional.

So I'm going to start with Senator Gendreau. And thank you, because as I approach geezerhood really quickly, there's nobody who's going to appreciate the Cannon Mountain tram more than me. So thank you for the Cannon Mountain tram.

Senator Lang. As anybody, and I think Senator D'Allesandro and I were on the first Committee of Conference on education funding back in 1999. The effort that you put into education funding is going to be so helpful, especially to towns that have a lot of students and a lot of needs. So great job on that.

Senator Watters, all the work that you've done protecting our environment, in particular this year, Senate Bill 123, the ambient groundwater quality standards, and I think for the North Country, Senate Bill 14, I know it didn't get passed, but you got game camera legislation through. Great job.

Senator Prentiss, you got a wonderful award recognizing all of your efforts for first responders, but you've also worked to make state buildings safer, and I think you worked long and hard to make sure that prescribers are able to use telemedicine for mental health issues. There was a lot of hard work and compromise that went into that. So thank you for that. Great job.

Senator Gray, we all know the work that you did, keeping the budget on track and coming up with just a remarkable effort. But you didn't give up on House Bill 58, which will, Senate Bill 58, I'm sorry, that will protect healthcare workers in our state's hospitals. That was a tough bill. We came together and it got done.

Senator Innis, I know I asked you to sponsor housing legislation. You did a great job. It's certainly one of the biggest issues facing our state. You worked really hard. You worked well with Senator Perkins Kwoka. Terrific job.

Senator Ward, you've done a great job on Education. It's really remarkable, some of the things that we've tried to do for education. But your bill, Senate Bill 135, which will help with special ed dispute resolutions, another great job.

Senator Ricciardi. I mean, last year you had a great session with rooms and meals, revenue distribution. This year you focused on water and PFAS remediation. Another great job that all of us came together on.

Senator Fenton, Youngsters in cars. You did a great job protecting everybody. That's going to save lives.

SENATOR FENTON: If the Governor will sign it.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: I suspect he will, but we'll see, we'll see. But anyway, great job.

Senator Chandley, there's been an awful lot of federal money that's come into our state, and your efforts for transparency, Senate Bill 208, online access to information of all those federal funds, really, really important.

Senator Avar. I thought I was going to be able to congratulate you for getting Senate Bill 61 across the finish line. But let me tell you something. The effort that you put in with Senator Ward and the bipartisan basis to solve a really big landfill issue. I know it came up a little short in the House today, but, man, your effort was extraordinary. And net metering, you and Senator Watters again deserve a huge amount of credit.

Senator Rosenwald, all the work that you did for Medicaid provider rates. When I think of the budget, there's nothing more important than keeping our health care system functional. Medicaid provider rates, thank God we had the revenue that we have to do it. But your advocacy was wildly important.

Senator Carson can't say enough about the work that you do and have done for years to protect children. You got the Sununu Center bill done. Great job. And your effort, your effort for workers compensation for firefighters that have cancer is also going to help an awful lot of people in our state. So thank you very much for that.

Senator Whitley. The Energizer bunny for moms, for mothers, expectant mothers, and all the work that you did on childcare. Your persistence really paid off. It was really a pleasure to work with you, and the coalition that you built was pretty extraordinary. So thank you for that.

Senator Murphy, you worked really hard. You were great advocate for small businesses in our state, being a business owner yourself, Passage of Senate Bill 98, which raises the delinquent fee to \$250, I think is going to help a lot of those small businesses. And sort of an under the radar thing, but something that affects each and every one of us because we need energy in this country. And the Jones Act is somewhat of a problem. And the advocacy you did on that Jones Act is certainly commendable.

Senator Pearl, you got a tough job with OPLC. You got a really tough job. You got OPLC done along with Senator Watters. You got game cameras done and tree stands done. And you served on Finance and you served on Energy. So thank you very much. Great, great job.

Senator Soucy, we never would have gotten all the bipartisan things done if you hadn't worked as hard as you did to work with us, to work with your caucus members, to come together. More than anybody else I think you've understood forever in this building we're going to have disagreements, but we never have to be disagreeable. And it's a tribute to your leadership that we were able to do so much together. And keep trying on judges over 70, and I know you will.

Senator Birdsell. Stood up for the first in the nation primary with your resolution. It's something all of us have worked hard on. It is so important for our first in the nation status. And when Hampstead had a little problem that got dropped in the budget, you went to work and got the job done for your town. That's what we all should do here. We all do it. But I think you have to get a shout out for that.

Senator D. There are so many accomplishments that we could write home about. Congregate grandparents. What about that? You finally got that done. Actually, it's foster grandparents and congregate housing, but you got that done. But even more important, I think, is the pension offset, the Social Security offset. There were a lot of years that you advocated for that. We're able to do in this budget, and it's a tribute to your hard work.

Senator Perkins Kwoka. Housing champions I think, is a game changer. I would have wished that we could have put a little bit more money into it, but let's see how that program works. I think the partnership between cities and towns and the state for affordable housing, as I said, an absolute game changer. And your advocacy was extraordinary.

Senator Abbas led the effort, along with Senator Birdsell on first in the nation status. Sort of don't know what happened in the House. Both you and I have talked about that. But I know you will be back next year with that first in the nation. And I suspect that all twenty-four of us next year will be on board with your effort. Hopefully, we'll be able to get it done. And your effort to enhance court security, really good work.

Senator Gannon. You had a slight break, but you were able to get Senate Bill 36 into the budget. And your advocacy on behalf of senior citizens with a system of care. Really great work and thank you very much.

And Senator Altschiller, Senate Bill 179. You were able to, with passage of that legislation, eliminate seclusion as a form of punishment. Another bipartisan accomplishment.

So as I go around the room, those were a lot of individual pieces of legislation that we came together on. None more important than the budget and none more important than the reauthorization of Medicaid expansion. I think that it brought us all together, the teamwork was exceptional. And I just can't say enough to thank everybody for that teamwork. And quite frankly, it was an honor. It was an honor to be able to preside over all of these good things. I hope everybody gets a chance to enjoy the summer. The sun's still out. Maybe a few minutes longer. So go enjoy this day, too. So if there are any further Unanimous Consents.

(The Chair recognized Senator D'Allesandro.)

SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Mister President. Mister President, I think all of us owe a debt of gratitude to you for your leadership this year. The budget was a tough one. But your leadership on the budget, along with the other members of the committee, greatly, greatly appreciate it. And I think the synergistic relationship that you developed with the colleagues is truly remarkable because many of us from different sides of the aisle, but indeed, everything worked out. So my sincere thanks to you because you and I have been around here a long time, as you say, we're how do you phrase it? We're ancient in terms of service. Geezerhood. But thank you. Thank you for everything.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Thank you all very much. Any further unanimous consents? We are going to take a picture up here with as many of the staffers as we can.

(The Chair recognized Senator Altschiller.)

SENATOR ALTSCHILLER: Thank you, Mister President. Yesterday was my birthday. Thank you. And I am very grateful for the last eleven birthdays that I have had, this is the eleventh because cancer tried to take them away from me. And as many of you know, my mother-in-law has been living with me and my husband while she now battles cancer. And she is winning and today is her birthday. So, we're leaving for a long weekend with family up at Lake Winnepesaukee where we will also celebrate my mother's birthday. And she is a tough nut for those of you who have met her and has been living with progressive multiple sclerosis like a champ. We, the women in our family, are survivors and we are going to celebrate this weekend and celebrate big. We are so lucky.

We are much luckier than the families of the thirty people who were killed and the one hundred and sixty-seven people who were injured in the last 35 mass shootings that have happened since this body last met...

SENATOR CARSON: I rise to object.

SENATOR ALTSCHILLER: ... As we celebrate America's birthday this weekend keep them in your thoughts.

(The Chair recognized Senator Lang.)

SENATOR LANG: So, to my colleagues I do what to say thank you. Senator Fenton and I had a nice photo in the paper pointing at each other basically over a bill that we were at complete odds with, that went to Committee of Conference, that was as we went in was completely a partisan bill that came out with a 7-0 vote and I'm happy to announce because of our agreement that we were able to reach in bipartisanship and I think Senator Fenton and Senator Watters I have on my speed dial nowadays, I talk on a regular basis in a bipartisan fashion. That never happens over in the House. And I appreciate it and it passed by one vote. So, thank you.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Okay, so before I recognize Senator Carson for the Third Reading motion just a reminder if everybody could gather here when we're done. We're going to try to get a picture.

(The Chair recognized Senator Pearl.)

SENATOR PEARL: Mister President, I forgot to mention one thing when I was introducing my wife earlier. I want to wish her a happy first anniversary. Next Monday is our first anniversary and I want to have a good time celebrating with her. So, Fourth of July, we married on the third, that's a very special weekend for us. So, I want to wish her a happy anniversary. Thank you.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM LATE SESSION

Senator Carson moved that the Senate adjourn from the Late Session.

Adopted. Adjournment from the Late Session.

SENATE JOURNAL 21

October 26, 2023

The Senate reconvened at 10:00 a.m., a quorum being present.

The Reverend Jon Hopkins, Chaplain to the Senate, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

We meet this morning in the midst of so much turmoil. We are mindful today of all the people in Israel who continue to mourn those who were brutally killed by Hamas. We are mindful today of all the people in Gaza who continue to suffer from the war. We are mindful today of all the people in Ukraine who continue to fight for their homeland. We are mindful of the sixteen families that are mourning the loss of loved ones in another senseless mass shooting in Maine. We are mindful today that peace is so far from a reality. But we ask you to bring peace to our hearts. We ask that you bring peace to the New Hampshire State Senate.

Remember today our colleague Senator Robert Clegg, remember that he was well known for keeping and following through on his promises. He was a man true to his word. He did everything in life with honor and integrity. Help the New Hampshire State Senate to honor him by living up to his example. That they might be an example of how to conduct ourselves among the many disagreements we have. That they might show all the citizens of New Hampshire how to compromise when necessary and how to follow the rule of law. How to conserve all the traditions of democracy that we hold so dear. And how to make progress towards a more just and peaceable world. Thank you for their service to all the citizens of New Hampshire. May their work here be a reflection of their dedication to doing what is good, honorable, and just. Amen.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Thank you. Thank you very much.

MEMORIAL CANDLE

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: I would now like to invite Senator Watters and Senator Carson to light a candle in honor of our former colleagues Senator Robert Clegg and Senator Frank Torr.

SENATOR CARSON: I made a promise I wouldn't burn the building down.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Thank you and if you could all join me in a moment of silence for Senator Clegg and Senator Torr. Thank you.

Senator Birdsell led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Senator Rosenwald is excused.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator Pearl introduced his wife Heather Pearl visiting in the gallery.

Senator Carson introduced Ava Hawkes visiting in the gallery.

AMENDMENT TO SENATE RULE 7-1

Senator Carson moved to amend Senate Rule 7-1, with the amendment provided here today.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE SENATE RULES

Amend Senate Rule 7-1 by replacing all after (m) with the following:

- (n) Thursday, November 30, 2023 – Deadline for prime sponsors to sign off on legislation. (4:00 p.m.)
- (o) Thursday, December 07, 2023 – Deadline for co-sponsors to sign off on legislation. (4:00 p.m.)
- (p) Thursday, December 14, 2023 – Deadline to REPORT rereferred bills out of committee.
- (q) Monday, February 26, 2024 – Friday, March 01, 2024: Winter Recess.
- (r) Thursday, March 28, 2024 – Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all Senate bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
- (s) Thursday, April 11, 2024 – CROSSOVER – Deadline to ACT on all Senate bills.
- (t) Thursday, May 09, 2024 – Deadline for Policy Committees to ACT on all House bills with a fiscal impact, except bills exempted pursuant to Senate Rule 4-5.
- (u) Thursday, May 23, 2024 – Deadline to ACT on all House bills.
- (v) Thursday, May 30, 2024 – Deadline to FORM Committees of Conference.
- (w) Thursday, June 06, 2024 – Deadline to SIGN Committee of Conference Reports. (4:00 p.m.)
- (x) Thursday, June 13, 2024 – Deadline to ACT on Committee of Conference Reports.

Adopted by the necessary 2/3 vote.

Without objection, the Clerk shall read the title of the Veto Message only and the Clerk is instructed to enter all House Messages into the Senate Journal. Adopted.

VETO MESSAGE

July 28, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 42

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 28, 2023, I have vetoed Senate Bill 42, relative to overpayment of unemployment compensation.

New Hampshire's Unemployment Compensation Trust Fund is almost solely funded by mandatory contributions collected from New Hampshire employers. These entities fund unemployment benefits for those who need them the most and are unemployed through no fault of their own. In return, employers expect the state to provide accountability for these funds by ensuring those who are filing for benefits are eligible for them in the first place. If a claimant is found to be ineligible after they were paid benefits and the reason they received benefits was because they provided information to the department they knew and understood was inaccurate, employers expect the state to recoup those funds and ensure they go to eligible claimants. Without the accrual of interest, individuals do not have an incentive to pay these funds back. In other words, this bill would allow ineligible beneficiaries to get an interest-free loan on the backs of New Hampshire employers.

While Senate Bill 42 may be well-intentioned, it is important to note that the NH Department of Employment Security (NHES) already has a process in place contained within state law and administrative rule requiring the department to evaluate whether someone is 'with fault' or 'without fault' in causing benefits to have been paid when they are subsequently found ineligible. If the person is determined to be without fault because the department or an employer made an error then current law allows the person to keep the benefits. It is only in those instances where the person is found to be with fault in causing benefits to be paid when they should not have been paid, that the person is required to repay those benefits back to the trust fund and potentially could accrue interest if not repaid in a timely manner.

The State is currently attempting to recoup \$6 million in overpayments from between 2017 and 2022. If Senate Bill 42 were to be signed, this would be nearly impossible to accomplish.

There was an opportunity to rectify all of the issues with the bill as written with an amendment offered in both the committee and on the floor. The amendment would have given NHES the flexibility they need to help ensure only the claimants who are eligible for benefits receive and keep them. Unfortunately, the amendment was not adopted.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 42.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator Birdsell introduced students from East Derry Memorial Elementary School visiting in the gallery.

The question is not withstanding the Governor's Veto, shall SB 42-FN become law?

A roll call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Chandley, Whitley, Soucy, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Gendreau, Lang, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Avard, Carson, Murphy, Pearl, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Bradley.

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 9 - Nays: 14. Veto sustained lacking necessary 2/3 vote.

VETO MESSAGE

May 31, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 51

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on May 31, 2023, I have vetoed Senate Bill 51, creating a commission to study charitable gaming and historical horse races and relative to the moratorium on licensed historical horse racing facilities.

In New Hampshire, we cherish small and limited government that is accountable to the people and does not pick winners and losers. Senate Bill 51 goes against that small government philosophy and continues the practice of only allowing game operators that held a license in 2020 to apply for historic horse racing (HHR) licenses. In other words, despite significant demand for licenses from potential new operators, Senate Bill 51 would continue state government's practice of hand-picking who is eligible for HHR licenses until at least 2026.

If this bill becomes law, the entities that benefit from this misguided government policy will be back again in 2026 to ask for another extension. It is up to us to uphold New Hampshire's small government spirit and allow the free market to thrive.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 51.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

The question is not withstanding the Governor's Veto, shall SB 51-FN become law?

A roll call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: Chandley.

The following Senators voted No: Gendreau, Lang, Watters, Prentiss, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Fenton, Avard, Carson, Whitley, Murphy, Pearl, Soucy, Birdsell, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Abbas, Gannon, Altschiller, Bradley.

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 1 - Nays: 22. Veto sustained lacking necessary 2/3 vote.

VETO MESSAGE

May 31, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 79

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on May 31, 2023, I have vetoed Senate Bill 79, an act relative to the participation of customer generators in net energy metering.

This legislation includes several problematic provisions. Most notably, the bill amends the statutory definition of a customer-generator and entirely removes the 1-megawatt net metering limit under current law. This change effectively removes all size limits on net metering aside from municipal and industrial host net metering arrangements. Although this may have been unintended by legislators, this change would completely upend the state's net metering structure and makes this bill unacceptable.

In addition to this mistake, enacting Senate Bill 79 would risk cost-shifting to benefit large businesses at the expense of those ratepayers who cannot afford higher energy costs. Energy cost increases are regressive, most directly affecting low-income families and seniors on fixed incomes. The New Hampshire Public Utilities Commission has an active adjudicative proceeding, DE 22-060, that will consider changes to the current net metering tariff structure. This proceeding will inform our understanding of the extent that net metering shifts costs among ratepayers and arrive at an appropriate rate of compensation for customer-generators. At that point, we may be able to feel much more confident that an expansion of net metering will not negatively impact our most vulnerable citizens.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 79.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

The question is not withstanding the Governor's Veto, shall SB 79 become law?

A roll call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: (None)

The following Senators voted No: Gendreau, Lang, Watters, Prentiss, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Fenton, Chandley, Avard, Carson, Whitley, Murphy, Pearl, Soucy, Birdsell, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Abbas, Gannon, Altschiller, Bradley.

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 0 - Nays: 23. Veto sustained lacking necessary 2/3 vote.

VETO MESSAGE

August 1, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 193

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 1, 2023, I have vetoed Senate Bill 193, relative to the obligation of collective bargaining units to negotiate in good faith.

Good faith negotiations in collective bargaining are already required in statute and are essential to producing a quality contract that works for both employees and public employers. It requires the parties to meet at reasonable times and places. Further inserting state government into the bargaining process by requiring the parties to meet within 10 business days after a written request from the other party is overly prescriptive. Timeframes for collective bargaining meetings should be defined and determined by the parties involved rather than signed into law through the legislative process.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 193.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

The question is not withstanding the Governor's Veto, shall SB 193 become law?

A roll call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Chandley, Whitley, Soucy, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Gendreau, Lang, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Avard, Carson, Murphy, Pearl, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Bradley.

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 9 - Nays: 14. Veto sustained lacking necessary 2/3 vote.

VETO MESSAGE

August 1, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 256

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 1, 2023, I have vetoed Senate Bill 256, establishing a safety program for off-highway recreational vehicles.

Senate Bill 256 may have been passed with the best intentions, but it would negatively affect tourism in New Hampshire and may steer would-be visitors to other states that do not have such burdensome requirements to ride OHRVs. This bill does little to increase safety and would make New Hampshire one of the most restrictive states in New England for OHRV riders.

I am open to working with the OHRV Association, legislators, and other stakeholders on a more targeted bill to address their concerns in the upcoming session.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 256.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

The question is not withstanding the Governor's Veto, shall SB 256-FN become law?

A roll call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Ward, Fenton, Chandley, Whitley, Soucy, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Gendreau, Lang, Gray, Innis, Ricciardi, Avard, Carson, Murphy, Pearl, Birdsell, Abbas, Gannon, Bradley.

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 10 - Nays: 13. Veto sustained lacking necessary 2/3 vote.

Recess. Out of recess.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Senator Soucy moves that we go right back into recess. What'd I'd suggest is we talked about 11:15 a.m., lets do 11:30 a.m. There are two more bills in the House and we are still awaiting the resolution in OLS.

Recess. Out of recess.

INTRODUCTION OF GUESTS

Senator Birdsell introduced students from East Derry Memorial Elementary School visiting in the gallery.

Recess. Out of recess.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to sustain the Governor's veto on the following entitled Bill(s):

HB 35, requiring student identification cards to include the National Eating Disorders Hotline.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to sustain the Governor's veto on the following entitled Bill(s):
HB 142, relative to the operation of the Burgess Biopower plant.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to override the Governor's veto on the following entitled Bill(s):
HB 337-FN, (New Title) relative to directing the office of professional licensure and certification to provide notice of public meetings and an opportunity for comment from the public, and creating a new attorney II position.

HOUSE MESSAGE

The House of Representatives has voted to sustain the Governor's veto on the following entitled Bill(s):
HB 342-FN, relative to lead testing in children.

VETO MESSAGE

August 8, 2023

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 337

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 8, 2023, I have vetoed House Bill 337, relative to directing the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification to provide notice of public meetings and an opportunity for comment from the public and creating a new attorney II position.

This bill creates different standards for the boards administratively attached to the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification (OPLC) than other public bodies subject to RSA 91-A. Currently, public bodies are required to post a public notice 24 hours in advance and records become available for public inspection after the completion of the meeting. This bill would require OPLC to notice meetings 14 days in advance and provide materials pertaining to those meetings seven days prior to the meeting. This bill would essentially require a legal review for every document this would need to be released in advance.

While I believe more transparency is important in state government, House Bill 337 would be unreasonable and burdensome for OPLC to implement, especially while the office is still working on implementing the major legislative achievements we've passed this session.

Additionally, there is no justification for singling out OPLC and holding them to a different standard than every other public entity in New Hampshire. This bill would open the door for carve-outs for other state agencies, eroding the uniformity among state and local governments that follow RSA 91-A.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 337.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor

The question is not withstanding the Governor's Veto, shall HB 337-FN become law?

A roll call is required.

The following Senators voted Yes: Watters, Prentiss, Fenton, Chandley, Carson, Whitley, Murphy, Soucy, Birdsell, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Altschiller.

The following Senators voted No: Gendreau, Lang, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Avard, Pearl, Abbas, Gannon, Bradley.

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 12 - Nays: 11. Veto sustained lacking necessary 2/3 vote.

SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

Senator Birdsell moved that the Senate suspend all rules necessary to permit consideration at the present time of SR 11, affirming New Hampshire's support for the State of Israel and the safety and security of its people. Adopted by the necessary 2/3 vote.

Senator Birdsell moved to introduce SR 11. Adopted by the necessary 2/3 vote.

Senator Birdsell moved Ought to Pass.

(The Chair recognized Senator Birdsell.)

SENATOR BIRDSELL: So, I look back on the horrors that happened on October 7th that Hamas inflicted on the women, the children, the babies, and some of the Holocaust survivors in Israel and I fear that history is starting to repeat itself. As most of you know my father was one of the first troops to enter in and liberate the concentration camp of Dachau. He didn't talk much about it, but I know it affected him greatly. How do I know? When we were stationed in Germany in 1958 my mother went on a tour of Dachau. He refused to go in.

So, this month I just returned from a trade mission in Poland. One of the trips we made was to a concentration camp, Stutthof. They had still the shoes of the children that were brought to Stutthof encased in glass. The barracks are still there, the gas chamber is still there, and the incinerator is still there, and flags of all of the individuals who died, perished, at Stutthof were flying there.

When I was in high school, we did a half semester on the Holocaust and when I look at the protests that are happening in Boston, New York, Washington, D.C., London, Paris, and Australia, when you hear chants like gas the Jews, from the river to the sea and glory to our martyrs, I fear our students are not getting afforded the same opportunity that we had in this education. We now have students, Jewish students, locked in a library in a New York College.

Again, I fear history is again repeating itself, only this time it's a lot worse. It's going global. This Resolution is a small way for New Hampshire to let Israel know that they have our support, and we will fight against history repeating itself. Mister President, I hope all will support this Resolution and I ask for a roll call.

(The Chair recognized Senator Altschiller.)

SENATOR ALTSCHILLER: Thank you, Mister President. On October 7th the world witnessed a modern day pogrom. Fourteen hundred people were murdered, thirty of them American citizens. What were they doing? We know that hundreds were camping at a music festival, dancing, laughing, joyfully celebrating life with music, friends, family, until they weren't. We know that some were out walking in the early morning hours enjoying the warm air until they weren't. The warning sirens that began to blare moved people quickly into their safe rooms. This terrorist attack by Hamas reminds us of what it means to live next door to a government that doesn't believe in your right to exist. The daily threat that requires safe rooms, statewide sirens, walls, military presence in everyday life.

Some of the people in the safe rooms were flushed out of their homes when their homes were set on fire by Hamas terrorists. If they didn't die inside their homes when they made it outside, they were shot, they were stabbed, some were raped before their death, while terrorists gleefully recorded themselves making videos of themselves committing atrocities and blasting it out to the world on social media. In an even more perverted act, a group of Hamas terrorists used a young woman's phone to record her torture. We all saw the video of the young woman splayed out in the back of a truck paraded through the streets unconscious, naked.

The mass murders weren't the only terrorist acts inflicted upon Israel that day. There were kidnappings of babies, children, young adults, grandparents. By now we've seen the video of the woman who was released from the labyrinth of tunnels, and she is in traumatic shock. Her husband still ensconced in an underground infrastructure at the mercy of Hamas terrorists.

The terrorist government of Hamas has a stated purpose of the annihilation of the state of Israel and the murder of the Jewish people. Former American diplomat to Israel, Jessica Kuntz said it best just two days ago, Israel has faced a Faustian bargain. Being in the immediate proximity to groups whose stated *raison d'être* is to wipe it off the face of the earth.

This Resolution supports our allies, the state of Israel. This Resolution mirrors the Resolution passed overwhelmingly by our House of Representatives in Washington. This Resolution mirrors the strong actions and words of our president. This Resolution condemns a coordinated terrorist attack that came with rockets, bulldozers, hand gliders, machine guns, knives, grenades by air, land, and sea. The people of Israel have a right to exist. They have a right to defend themselves. I hope that we can all support this Resolution. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Soucy.)

SENATOR SOUCY: Thank you, Mister President. Mister President, I too stand in support of this Resolution. I stand because I believe that the state of Israel was created as a safe place for the Jewish people after the Holocaust. I stand because the State of Israel is a democratic state. On October 7th, the end of a sacred holiday for the Jewish people, atrocities were committed that had been well planned, that were strategic. The attack was a sneak attack. None of the people had any warning. And the atrocities that were committed are just beyond the beyond. I don't think any of us could even imagine what happened to many of these people although my colleagues did describe some of the most heinous acts. This was the greatest loss of life, Jewish people since the Holocaust. And I think that's something that should cause all of us to pause for a moment. The Holocaust was one of the most extraordinary atrocities of the entire world. And yet, here, the beginnings of it are happening again.

As I watched the news unfold, I couldn't help myself. I had to keep watching because I had to know what was happening. And I had to know because for me a lot of it was very personal. I've been to Israel. And I started researching online some of the places that had been affected by the bombings. One of those places is a Kibbutz that I had the privilege of visiting, Kibbutz Kfar Azar. This community was a place where people all had smiles on their faces, were so thrilled to welcome visitors. We shared lunch, communal lunch, that this community had on a daily basis. And yet, at the same time, we talked to the people that were there and asked, you know, how they didn't live with stresses and anxieties given that they were so close to the border of Gaza and given that there were bomb shelters. And some of those bomb shelters, I have pictures of them, were beautifully painted and they were painted that way to attract the children so that they would know that was their safe place. That place is no more. That place of love and community and faith was completely wiped out. All of the people that lived in that amazing community, gone.

And I was also reminded of another place I visited while I was in Israel, and that was the museum, Yad Vashem. And that's a particularly important place because Yad Vashem is about the memories of the Holocaust. We're now several generations out from people that lived through that experience. And the mission is to ensure that the records are kept, and the memories are kept so that we know our history and we don't recommit these acts. There's a part of the museum that's dedicated to the lost lives of children. It's not brightly colored, it's a dark, dark space and you have to hold the rail to walk through so you don't get lost. But there are individual points of light that you see as you walk through to represent the children that were lost during the Holocaust. And once again to remind us of the atrocities that occurred and that we have to stop, we have to prevent.

Right after this occurred on October 11th, I joined with some of you in this room for a gathering of solidarity organized by New Hampshire's Jewish Federation. And many of our leaders spoke and were represented there. And it was a coming together for a lot of people to begin the grieving process, not to begin, I think people were already grieving, but it was an opportunity for people to just, to share and to know that we in New Hampshire are a community that supports our Jewish friends and neighbors.

So, Mister President, for all of those reasons today, I want to stand against anti-Semitism. I want this body to stand against anti-Semitism. I want all of us to stand with our most important ally in the Middle East, Israel. I want to stand for the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish and democratic state. And I want to stand for the right of Israel to defend itself against these atrocities under the international rules of war. For all of those reasons, Mister President, I implore you, my colleagues, to please support this Resolution. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator Perkins Kwoka.)

SENATOR PERKINS KWOKA: Yes, thank you, Senator Bradley. I'd like to rise in support of this Resolution, and I rise in support of our ally. I just have one little comment to make, which is on line 12, I do wish this could have read, through the targeted use of military force. And I say that only because I join you in condemning the actions of Hamas, but I think we all know that there are children and civilians that are caught up in this conflict. And as a mom of now three little girls and a former Peace Corps volunteer, I just, I wish everyone could be safe. Thank you.

(The Chair recognized Senator D'Allesandro.)

SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Mister President. Mister President, I echo the sentiments of my colleagues with regard to this Resolution. I've been to the Mideast on a number of occasions, and I've seen what's apparent there. It's a devastating situation. The hatred that's manifested there is overwhelming, and you can feel it. You can feel it when you arrive. These people are all Semites. They should all be in concert with one another. The Palestinians, the Jews, should be living together in peace. We can't make that happen.

We can identify the atrocity and we say it should never have happened. But indeed, the root of the problem will never be solved by a Resolution. It'll be solved when people, when people can join together and strive for one thing, peace for everyone.

Thousands of Palestinians are being killed. I see the children on both sides. What good is that? What good is retribution? Peace is what we need. We've got to promote peace. We've got to eliminate hate. It exists in this country. We see an example of it in Maine. Twenty people are dead. Why? Because one jerk doesn't like somebody else. He buys a weapon and kills people. Fifty, sixty people are in the hospital. That's in Maine. That's twenty miles from here. I'm talking to the Commissioner of Safety last night about it. This terrible situation is pervasive throughout the world. It's pervasive in our country. Over 500 people have been murdered in this country this year because we can't get along.

I've been to the camps. I've seen the Palestinians who have no passports, who can't go anywhere, who can't do anything. So, Hamas, the guerrilla aspect of it takes hold. It feeds them, feeds them the venom, feeds them the hate. We've got to do better. We've got to do better as a society. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Carson.)

SENATOR CARSON: Thank you, Mister President. I rise in support of Senate Resolution 11, and I ask my colleagues to support it as well. I think like many of you, I watched in horror at some of the videos that came out. Some of them are just so bad that we can't, they won't show them. But for me what was really symbolic was seeing the people that were at this music festival and they were, they had film of these soldiers that were parachuting in. I cannot imagine the horror those people endured. I don't think anybody can. But how much longer do we ask the Israeli people to turn the other cheek? They were doing nothing. Minding their own business when they were attacked and as our good friend from District 18 had said It was just a music festival. And it was a long-planned attack.

We need to stand with the state of Israel, and we need to stand with our Jewish friends. We need to remember this is the largest loss of Jewish lives since the Holocaust. Remember, the Holocaust never happened again, never. Well, what do you call what happened on October 7th?

Mister President, you know, it's sad that we have to do this, it really is. We shouldn't have to. But we need to make a strong statement here. Not only for our Jewish friends in Israel but for our Jewish citizens here in the United States as well. I don't know about you, Mister President, but I watched yesterday on the news, where a group of college students who are Jewish, had barricaded themselves inside of a classroom because all the protesters were banging on the door trying to get to them. Where was their safe space? Where was the tolerance for them? It's awful what we're seeing happening and it needs to stop.

This might be a Simple Resolution, but we are taking a stand here and it is an important stand. And I think it signals to the people of the state of New Hampshire we stand arm in arm with our Jewish friends. Thank you very much, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Whitley.)

SENATOR WHITLEY: Thank you, Mister President. I also rise in support of the Resolution and share what my colleague from District 21 mentioned about wanting it to be a little bit broader, in fact. I think there is, without question, that every Senator in this room feels that what happened early in October to our Jewish friends in the state of Israel was one of the worst atrocities we will ever see in our lifetime.

As a parent and now as an elected official, I now understand at a deep level that two things can be true at the same time. Living with paradox is deeply human but often deeply unsettling. I wholeheartedly condemn the horrific atrocities perpetuated by Hamas against our friends in Israel and stand with our Jewish friends in the United States who continue to process this horrific incident. I wholeheartedly support the state of Israel's right to exist and defend its people. And I also wholeheartedly support the right of all individuals to be free, safe, and treated with dignity, including Palestinians.

The war in this region has resulted in devastating and horrific deaths of civilians, including children. It's unspeakable. I support this Resolution and I also ask our colleagues to think of all who were impacted by the devastating situation in the Middle East. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Chandley.)

SENATOR CHANDLEY: Thank you, Mister President. For weeks I've been devastated by the attacks committed by Hamas. For the past twenty-four hours, my thoughts have been consumed by this Resolution. Not

because I don't support it, but because I do. While I would have liked language both more nuanced and more precise, I can make two statements unequivocally. I stand with Israel, its right to exist, to protect and defend its people. And I denounce the brutal, sickening acts of violence committed by Hamas.

When reading this Resolution, I was struck by the reference to defenseless women and children. Were not the men, also innocent victims? I wish that had been the language that was used. Furthermore, it recognizes the right of Israel to use military force, and like my colleague, I could expand on that further. Should we not also have referenced diplomacy, intelligence, and humanitarian concerns? Should it not also speak to working toward an everlasting peace? I rise now because for me those omissions needed to be addressed, and I call for peace and justice.

It is right and appropriate to offer this Resolution. We should tread carefully as we do so because it is so very important. Throughout modern history, there have been barbarous attempts to eliminate others. We know this has happened. Folks have referenced the Holocaust, of course, the most hideous example. There have also been situations in Bosnia and in Rwanda. We must speak out now, and I do fear that we may find ourselves frequently in this position if we don't, in addition to passing a Resolution, act now. We need to back our words with the kinds of things that my colleague from District 20 talked about, building relationships.

I know that here in the New Hampshire Senate, we will not find the solution, but we can take certain steps. I join my colleagues in affirming New Hampshire's support for the state of Israel and the safety and security of its people, and I denounce terrorism, and I do, now, and always, call for peace. Thank you, Mister President.

The question is on the adoption of the resolution.

A roll call was requested by Senator Birdsell, seconded by Senator Soucy.

The following Senators voted Yes: Gendreau, Lang, Watters, Prentiss, Gray, Innis, Ward, Ricciardi, Fenton, Chandley, Avard, Carson, Whitley, Murphy, Pearl, Soucy, Birdsell, D'Allesandro, Perkins Kwoka, Abbas, Gannon, Altschiller, Bradley.

The following Senators voted No: (None)

The following Senators were excused: Rosenwald.

Roll Call, Yeas: 23 - Nays: 0. Adopted.

MOTION TO ADJOURN FROM EARLY SESSION

Senator Carson moved that the Senate adjourn from the Early Session, that the business of the Late Session be in order at the present time.

Adopted. Adjournment from the Early Session.

LATE SESSION

MOMENT OF SILENCE

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: I know there are a number of Personal Privileges, but I want to start first by recognizing Senator Carson and Senator Watters to lead us in a moment of silence.

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Mister President. I'd like to ask for a moment of silence for the people of Lewiston in light of the tragedy unfolding there.

SENATOR CARSON: Thank you, Mister President. I would second that. In fact, I kind of looked at my phone, which I wasn't supposed to do. The shooter, as we know, was active in Lewiston, Maine, and that's where most of my mother's family live. And I received a text message from my daughter that they've heard from quite a few members of the family that they're okay. So, Mister President, if we could have a moment of silence for the victims of this horrific shooting.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: Thank you all.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

(The Chair recognized Senator Carson.)

SENATOR CARSON: Thank you Mister President. It is with a heavy heart that I'm going to try to discuss the recent passing of a colleague of ours, former Senate Majority Leader Robert Clegg, Jr. He died on August 31st of this year. It was a very, very sudden passing. And I think that so many people are still, can't believe that he's not here anymore.

He was such a larger-than-life kind of a person, and he loved politics. And he spent so much time here and the institutional knowledge he had because he had served as the Senate Majority Leader from 2002 to 2006. He was a Speaker Pro Tem in the New Hampshire House in the 1990s. And he also was a senior partner of Legislative Solutions. He served four terms in the House, and he ran for Congress. He loved politics, and he loved debate and discussion. And if anybody had a question about anything, they would go see Bob. Because Bob usually would have some information that he could give you. Or you'd say, hey, I heard about this. Oh, I got a file on that from fifteen years ago. I'll bring it home. It's in my home. I'll bring it over for you so you can read what happened.

Bob was truly a very, very unique individual. He came from a difficult background. And he worked really hard. He didn't go to college. He was quite proud of that, quite frankly. He was a self-made man. He had his own construction company, as well as the lobbying firm. I don't think that man ever really took a vacation. Because even when he was on vacation, he'd give out his phone number and said, if you need anything, give me a call. If you've got anything, any questions, just call me.

He did take vacations. He loved to be a photographer. And he loved to go to the British Isles. And he would spend a lot of time taking pictures of the landscape. Because he loved it there. And one of the things he told me that he wanted to do was maybe when he actually retired, maybe get some land and maybe build a little house over there. But unfortunately, he never really got the chance to do that.

Bob was also busy in local politics. When he died, he was serving on the town of Hudson's Budget Committee. So public service was something that was in his veins. And what's interesting about Bob that most people didn't know, he was an exceptionally giving man. If you needed help, he was right there. The smallest thing, he was there to help you. And he never asked for anything in return. He just wanted you to be okay. Whether it was sitting down and having a conversation with him, or him coming to visit you if something was wrong. He did that because he genuinely cared about people. And the man was as honest as the day is long. And he had no problem standing up to anybody if he felt he was right. And he would argue, my God, the arguments we would have about issues. And he helped to make me a better debater because he would never back down from an argument. Because he was always right.

Bob leaves his wife Priscilla of forty-nine years, his daughter Jess, his son Jeff, Jess's husband Justin, and Jeff's wife Jackie, as well as three granddaughters. One, Kylee was adopted, she's considered to be adopted by the family, and Lorelai, and his newest granddaughter, Elsbeth.

One of the last times I spoke to him, he talked a lot about all the wonderful things he planned to do with Elsbeth. He wanted to show her the world and that he was her Bob-Bob, that's what she called him Bob-Bob. And you want to talk about a little girl having somebody wrapped around her finger? It was interesting to watch the two of them. He loved that little girl so much and he had so many plans. Things that he wanted to do.

Bob was also a just... I had to write everything down because there was just so much to remember. He again, he served as the justice of the peace. And if you'd ever been over to his house, he had these absolutely beautiful gardens and he would marry people in those gardens for no cost. He worked with a number of groups volunteering his time and money to support them. And he supported veterans, a variety of veterans organizations around the state. Local food pantries in Hudson and helped, he actually helped foster children afford driving lessons so they could get their driver's license.

There was something that I, someone had written about him which I thought was really great. And I think it's a good way to remember Bob. And he quietly helped so many and he never really understood the positive impact he had on so many people, his community and the state of New Hampshire. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Avard.)

SENATOR AVARD: On the same note, I have Senator Clegg's memorial card. Just so you know, was his famous line of saying something, just so you know.

The first time I met Bob, I was downstairs by where Senator Gray's office is now. And having met him, I looked at him in the eye and I said, you know, I'm not sure I trust you yet. And we became best friends at that point. And I think he really enjoyed that. He liked that. It was a challenge to him, but I feel like I've lost a big brother. I've watched him help people.

One day he called me up and said, come on outside. He was in his big truck. He says, I got something for you. He gives me this dilapidated box. Thanks. Yeah, go look at it. It's for you. Inside it, is a Bible. Thanks, Bob. You know, he's very attentive. And I want to quote a couple of verses from the Bible. I think he'd appreciate

this too, because one's from Solomon, and there's many reasons why that's significant. But there's a verse, Proverbs 27:2 it says, let another man praise thee, and not thine own mouth, a stranger, and not thine own lips. In the New Testament, the Lord Jesus wrote, take heed how you do your alms good works before men. Take heed that you're not doing it in front of them to be seen of them. But when you do your alms, do it in secret. And your heavenly Father, which sees you in secret, will reward you openly. First John says, my little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth. That's Bob Clegg.

I watched him help a veteran who did three tours in Vietnam, who was living in perfect swill. He asked me to help clean his house, and not only did I clean his house, Bob was in there rolling up the carpets of fecal with me, ripping down the walls and repainting them, so that when this gentleman came back, he'd have a beautiful house to live, asked for nothing in return.

I've listened to testimonies of people that are in this room, who he's helped, and he's never sounded a trumpet saying, hey look at me. I thought, wow, and the stories can go on and on about the Bobisms. We saw this huge line of individuals that came to pay tribute, and there should be a book written about this man. I truly love this guy. He'd tick you off sometimes, really bad, because he was never wrong. But at the end of the day, you knew somebody had your back. Somebody that was very frank with you. Behold a man in whom there is no guile.

I really appreciated to know this guy and the people that he knows and loves. And on the back of his card, you know, I think he was Irish. It says, when Irish eyes are smiling, sure like the morning spring, in the lilt of the laughter you'll hear the angels sing. When Irish hearts are happy, all the world seems bright and gay. But when Irish eyes are smiling, surely they'll steal your heart away. And this man had done so. I thank God for the privilege in knowing that man. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Watters.)

SENATOR WATTERS: Thank you, Mister President. I rise as well to remember a former colleague of ours, Frank Torr, who died at age 93 on August 3, 2023. And just an extraordinary Senator, extraordinary man and someone who did so much for Dover. And so I just wanted to say a few words about him.

He was raised alongside three brothers on a family farm on Chestnut Hill Road. And it's there he developed a profound love for the land and its nurturing spirit. He graduated from Spalding High in '48, went to Nason College, and then into the Air Force. Four years of proud service to our country. And then after military service, he and his brother went into business and they established the Polly-Ann Trailer Park, named after their wives. And if that's not an honor in a marriage to have a trailer park named after you, I don't know what is. And it's just a wonderful, it's still there in Dover and still it's a wonderful place for its tenants. And the Torr family, I think when they kicked over the first rock on Dover Point Road, there were the Torrs. And they've been in the community for generations and what they have done for Dover and for the state.

So many organizations and committees. He was on the Pease Development Authority, Sky Haven Airport Authority, New Hampshire Ballot Law Commission, Selective Service Board, Manufactured Homes Association, just to name a few. And then, you know, for the city of Dover and the state of New Hampshire, the Strafford Regional Planning Commission, Dover Personal Advisory Board, the Cocheco Waterfront Development Advisory Committee, Dover Utilities Commission, Councilor at Large and Dover City Council, twenty-five years on the Dover Planning Board. And you see a theme here of careful planning. And it took twenty years, but the Cocheco Waterfront Project, which is going to transform our city, is breaking ground. And I think no better tribute to the vision he had for what the community could be.

His eighteen years up here in the House and the Senate. He was a budget guy. He's on budget appropriations, fiscal committees of the House and Senate and I think that he helped establish a real pattern of just how that kind of work should be done with the people's resources. Lots of recognitions and awards for his, you know, planning work, property rights, development, exemplary standards of professional conduct, courtesy, and respect.

And, you know, I wanted to go back to that kind of first thing about, you know, growing up on that farm, what it meant to Frank. And in some ways he was an environmentalist long before we started to use that term. The New Hampshire Farm Bureau, the New Hampshire Timber Owners Association. I would most often see Frank, you know, when I first ran, he just gave me just great advice about that. But then I most often see him over at the recycling center. And even just, you know, a few months ago. And he'd always had that little, that kind of twinkle in his eyes throwing some trash into the plastic bin or the cardboard or whatever, and I knew that he had some advice for me on an issue. And I really valued that so much.

And, you know, not long before Frank passed, his wife Ann passed, and many people remember her service in the House, she was Majority Leader, and what a force of nature Anne was just both up here and also in Dover. And I will say, you know, the apples don't fall far from the tree. I had their son, Tom, as a sophomore, was in one of my classes at UNH, and he graduated, went to law school, and then returned right to the hometown. And Frank and Anne's other children too. Service, service, service. So I'm glad we're here today to commemorate Frank along with Senator Clegg and have the candle burning brightly for folks who shed so much light on this body. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator D'Allesandro.)

SENATOR D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you, Mister President. Mister President, Unanimous Consent. I had the privilege of serving with the Cleggmeister, who was taken good care of by Senator Carson and Senator Avard. And I had the honor of working with Frank Torr.

Now let me just say this. Frank Torr was a good human being. A good human being. Ann and he were the perfect couple. The perfect couple. The Jebster, I'm sure that you remember her from our service in the House all those many years ago. Ann was a power hitter. No question about that. She had a lot of juice. And she used it. Frank would walk around with that little book, and he'd be doing everything on Finance. And he tutored Clegg on Finance. He was really Clegg's mentor. And when Clegg became President of the Senate, the first thing he did was hire Frank to do the budget. And I happened to be on Finance. And I worked with Frank on a daily basis. Used to call him in the evening and find out what was going on and so forth and so on. But, you know, in this business, when you can say a guy dedicated his life to public service, that's a very meaningful situation. And both he and his wife dedicated themselves to public service.

I'd go to the hockey games at UNH and there's Frank and his wife. They loved hockey. They loved the university. They also loved you, Senator Watters. That was that was the lynch pin that tied it all together. But he was the guy who gave it all and gave it all to public service. And you know what better way can you remember people than for the good, the good that they did, and the spirit that they leave, that spirit of cooperation of wanting to do the right thing.

Then let me end by saying there was one guy who was the epitome of this, and his name was Ray Burton. And I said Ray Burton, God rest his soul, created the committee to do the right thing. Well the Cleggmeister and Frank Torr were both honorary members of the committee to do the right thing. Thank you, Mister President.

(The Chair recognized Senator Gray.)

SENATOR GRAY: Thank you, Mister President. Certainly I knew both of the individuals. And Mister Torr, Senator Torr, I had the privilege of serving on the Stafford County Commission with him. The airport also. The Torr name, if you are a member of Stafford County, you can't help but know the Torr name. In fact, the history of Rochester, one of the ones that I read, the first thing that they talked about was the Torr farm on Chestnut Hill Road. And I had the privilege of knowing both Ann and Pauline who had the trailer park, excuse me, manufactured housing communities named after. I want to do that. And both of those individuals that we are honoring today are well worth it. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT BRADLEY: We've had three of our members recently honored with some significant achievement awards. Senator Whitley and Senator Ricciardi both received Legislator of the Year Award for some of their work on the budget. And last night, the conscience of the Senate, the Lion of the Senate, Senator D, received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Business and Industry Association. So I would hope we would honor all three of our members.

Without objection, all Personal Privileges and Unanimous Consent shall be entered into the permanent *Journal of the Senate*. (Rule 2-16 and Rule 2-17). Adopted.

MOTION TO ADJOURN TO CALL OF THE CHAIR

Senator Carson moved that the business of the day being completed, that the Senate recess for the purposes of sending and receiving messages, upon completion, the Senate will stand adjourned to the Call of the Chair.

Adopted. The Senate Adjourned to the Call of the Chair.